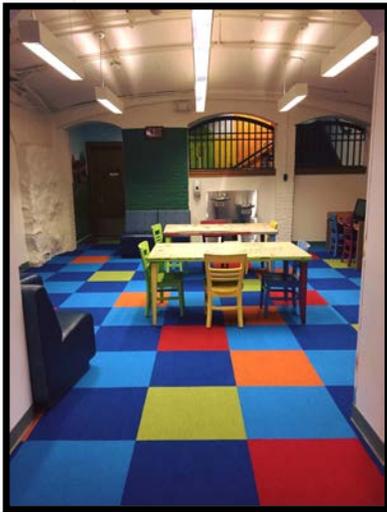




FORBES library

NORTHAMPTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

Children's & Young Adult Department Renovations



Thanks to the Friends of Forbes, the Children's and YA Department is creating more age-specific spaces for toddlers, elementary school-aged kids, and teens!

The area outside of the Community Room has become a hub for toddlers and their families. Kids love to color on the tables and play with dolls in the space while they wait for storytime to start. Since it's such a high-traffic area, the rug was looking worn, so in mid-November we replaced it with bright new carpeting that matches the colors used in the Jarrett Krosoczka mural in the stairwell. The new carpeting is also made of squares so pieces can be easily replaced as needed. We've also updated the two toddler computers in the craft area, which were old and frequently malfunctioning, with new AWE Early Literacy Station computers pre-loaded with 70 educational software titles for

ages 2-8. They are already getting a lot of use and we've received great feedback from parents!

We're also in the process of creating a new space for studying and group project work for elementary school-aged kids in the Wizard of Oz Room. We often get requests for quiet study space and for places where tutors can work with students. Soon, the room will feature two sectional oak tables and eight chairs that can be arranged together to accommodate large groups or separately for smaller ones. For kids looking to use computers, we are also making a new computer area just outside of the Oz Room, featuring another large oak table with four chairs and four new all-in-one computers. This new space will help give teens more privacy in the YA Room and give younger kids space to play games and do homework.

We believe that these changes will help make the library a more welcoming and user-friendly place for all of our young patrons. Thank you to the **Friends Group** for generously financing these important projects!



Gift Ideas at the Library

Looking for a unique holiday gift that benefits a good cause? Forbes Library tote bags, books about local history and signed Mo Willems posters are just some of the fabulous gift items you can purchase at the library.



Staff News



If you are looking for a good book, new or old, Forbes has the perfect solution. Alene Moroni, the new Head of Reference and Co-Coordinator of Information Services, is passionate about connecting each person with the right book. With more than 15 years' experience of doing just that, at NY Public Library, King County Library in Washington state, and Forbes, she takes great pleasure in fulfilling readers' wishes and thinks Northampton is a particularly fascinating place to work with its mixture of people and institutions. Originally from the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, she is very much at home in Forbes Library and is full of ideas on how to make its resources and collections as helpful, visible and accessible as possible.



The reference department at Forbes was also delighted this month to welcome a new librarian, Heather Diaz, who will be working 22 hours each week. A Memphis native, Heather received her BA degree from Boston University and worked in western Massachusetts in agriculture for a few years before heading to Seattle. Having just finished library school at the University of Washington this spring, she was hoping to find a job in a public library, because she enjoys working with the range of people and interests a community affords. Thrilled to be at Forbes, which is so heavily used, she is looking forward eagerly to helping people with what they are curious about. Come in and say hello!

Help Us Plan Our Anniversary

Forbes Library opened its doors in the fall of 1894 and will be celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2019. We will offer special programming, exhibits and events. Are you interested in helping us plan? Contact Lisa Downing ldowning@forbeslibrary.org

125
Years

Children's & Young Adult Local Author Series

So many wonderful authors and illustrators call Northampton home. To help connect with them and share their talents with our youngest patrons, we recently kicked off a children's and young adult local author series. Mike Curato, award-winning children's author and illustrator, led our first event on Saturday, October 7. Mike read two of his books, did a live drawing demonstration, and signed books afterwards. (He even included Paco in one of his drawings!)

On November 4, we hosted Lambda award-winning YA and middle grade author Ellen Wittlinger, who read from her latest book, *Saturdays with Hitchcock*. She also discussed her writing process, answered many questions from the audience, and signed books. Our next event will be on December 2nd at 2 pm, featuring Jane Yolen and Heidi Stemple! Their talk will center around books about birds and their writing processes.

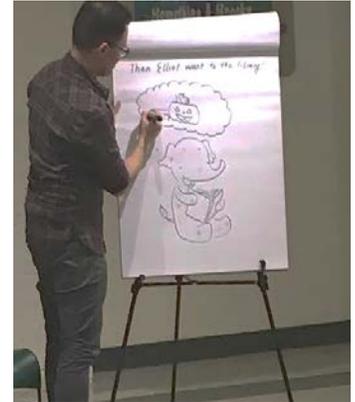


Photo credit: Ralph Holley

The local author series was made possible thanks to funding from the Friends of Forbes.

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Free Money for

Are you a Florence Bank customer? You can help the Friends of Forbes win a Customer's Choice Community Grant from Florence Bank with a simple vote by December 31! Florence Bank is donating \$100,000 to local non-profit organizations with their Annual Customers' Choice Community Grants Program, and you decide who gets the money! Be sure to vote before December 31st to make your vote count. It's easy! Go to the Florence Bank Customer's Choice page and type Friends of Forbes and Northampton in the organization and city fields. Enter your name and email, click the "count my vote" button and that's it! Your vote will help us win a grant from Florence Bank. It's just that simple!

Thank you for your vote!

Suggestions?

Our librarians strive to provide a collection that meets our community's needs and interests. Your suggestions for particular books, movies or other items as well as subjects or new collection ideas are always welcome. Let us know the next time you are in or fill out our online form, <http://forbeslibrary.org/help/make-a-purchase->



26,000 more great movies, documentaries, independent films now available to all Forbes Library cardholders.

Forbes Library is pleased to announce the launch of a new streaming video service, Kanopy, to our digital collection.

All Forbes Library cardholders can now access Kanopy and watch popular films and documentaries anytime by visiting <http://forbes.kanopystreaming.com>

Community Webs Grant

Dylan Gaffney from our Information Services team was awarded a grant for Community Webs, a two year Institute of Museum and Library Services funded program to develop a web archive documenting the digital record of our community. This was an extremely competitive grant with 111 libraries applying for just 10 open spots, including public libraries from 35 states and almost all the

Forbes Library will receive the equivalent of \$25,000 in web archiving services to build a local history web archive collection. This includes access to and training on the Archive-It web application for five years. Watch for more information about this exciting new archiving initiative at the library in the new year.

New Trees

Forbes Library opened its doors in 1894 and 3 years later a row of oak trees was planted by one of the founding trustees, Arthur C. Watson. The thirteen trees, most of them pin oaks, provided shade for over a century until the expansion of Route 66 in 2006. Since then, 8 have experienced severe decline and had to be removed. A public replanting of scarlet oaks on November 18th in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, Tree Northampton and the Public Shade Tree Commission has brought the iconic row of trees back up to its original number.



Additional tree work on the property, funded by the City of Northampton is underway. Lashko Tree Service was hired to remove, trim and cable trees on the grounds that pose a safety risk. The library plans to replace additional shade trees in the new year and also seeks to add more plantings and seating to the grounds for the community's enjoyment. "We enjoy seeing patrons of all ages using the library grounds for everything from attending a concert or movie to reading a book or enjoying a picnic," said Lisa Downing, Library Director.



Jigsaw Puzzles and Board and Card Games

Just in time for your indoor winter entertainment we are pleased to announce that we are going to begin circulating Jigsaw Puzzles and Board and Card games. From a diabolical 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle of the Celestial Planisphere to card games like Uno that will keep you up till the wee hours at night, you will be able to borrow it from the library.

Maximize Your Giving

The Forbes Library is now offering a new and convenient way to make an impact. We are accepting monthly gifts. Maximize your giving to the library with a monthly payment through PayPal.

Setting up your gift is easy. Visit forbeslibrary.org/giving and click on the donate button. On the PayPal donation page, just select the checkbox next to "Make this a monthly donation." The amount you enter will be paid to the Library each month. You can change your recurring donation anytime in your PayPal account settings.

Thank you for considering stretching your giving to the Forbes in this way.

The Five Year Plan

The five year plan for Forbes Library aims to provide greater access to all library services for all members of the Northampton community.

Forbes Library completed an eight-month planning process that culminated in the creation of a strategic plan for fiscal years 2019 through 2023 (July 2018-June 2023). The plan has been submitted and approved by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, which is a requirement for eligibility for certain grants. Katy Wight, Trustee of Forbes Library, chaired the planning committee. "It is an exciting and ambitious plan that provides a framework for the library to meet the needs of our community and deliver higher levels of service," said Wight.

"What we heard time and time again is that the community values the library but wants more access to it. We will strive to improve access by increasing hours, providing more digital content and reaching out to new and underserved audiences. We also plan to address the community's growing income gap by emphasizing free access to technology, educational resources and recreational reading and viewing," said Lisa Downing, Library Director.



Public libraries are a cornerstone of our democracy and vital centers of knowledge, inspiration, and community.

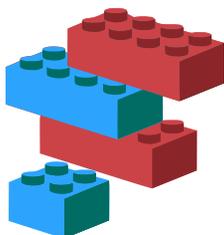
Northampton is fortunate to have just such an institution in Forbes Library and I commend the Board of Trustees for working with our community to create a long-term vision for sustaining it now and into the future.

The plan is available to view on the library's website, <http://forbeslibrary.org/info/strategic-plan/> and a printed summary is available at the library.

This Year

The meeting rooms were used 1,841 times

That includes programs for kids and teens (with attendance of more than 4,500) and programs for adults (with attendance of more than 9,700). Programs have included:



ukulele sing-alongs,

author events, yoga,



writing groups, book discussions, storytimes, concerts, films, local history, and much more!

All Supported at Least in Part by the FRIENDS of FORBES

Museum Pass Display

Check out our newly installed Museum Pass display near the main desk! **Thank you to the Friends of the Library** for both the museum passes themselves and the beautiful



Hosmer Gallery

December 2017

Keila Ploof
Collage Portraits
and landscapes



William Orr
Photographs
Nature



January 2018

Mark
Brown



Michael Tillyer
Mixed Media Folk Art



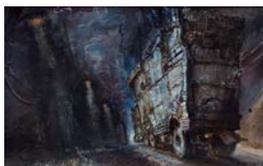
Susan Boss
Fiber art quilts

February



Perry Carter
Paintings Surreal Portraits

Ben Sears
Drawings
Imagined scenes



Lennie Kaumzha
Paintings
Abstract/fusion

Scenes from our September Wine Tasting

